CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A method of converting an electronic wallet, comprising steps of:

providing, via a computing device, a thin wallet account providing a first set of services, the first set of services requiring a single authentication level;

presenting, via a computing device, a thin wallet accountholder a one-time challenge/response mechanism; and

if the thin wallet accountholder clears the challenge, converting, via a computing device, the thin wallet account to a full wallet account requiring multiple authentication levels and providing a different set of services for each authentication level.

2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the challenge/response mechanism requires an accountholder to provide information known only to the thin wallet accountholder.

3. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of providing the thin wallet account comprises either of the steps of:

creating, via a computing device, the thin wallet account when making an initial purchase; and

creating, via a computing device, a record in a subscriber database.

4. (original) The method of Claim 3, wherein subscribers include subscribers to any of:

an online service; and

an ISP (Internet service provider).

5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of presenting a challenge/response mechanism comprises steps of:

requesting, via a computing device, a service from within the thin wallet account that is only available from within a full wallet account; and

one time only, prompting, via a computing device, the thin wallet accountholder to provide the information known only to the thin wallet accountholder.

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) The method of Claim [[6]] 1, wherein the different set of services for each authentication level comprise tasks requiring greater security than the level of security provided by said single authentication level.

9. (previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the additional tasks comprise any of:

editing the default account information;

editing account preferences;

making purchases that exceed a predetermined purchase amount; and

making purchases at sites that require additional authentication beyond said single authentication level.

10-11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) The method of Claim [[11]] 2, wherein the information known only to the thin wallet account holder comprises at least a portion of a credit card number stored in the first account.

13. (previously presented) The method of Claim 12, further comprising steps of:

if the thin wallet accountholder doesn't clear the challenge, allowing, via a computing device, a predetermined number of attempts to enter the information known only to the thin wallet account holder; and

if the thin wallet accountholder fails the predetermined number of attempts, allowing, via a computing device, the thin wallet accountholder to provide a new credit card number; and

presenting a challenge based on the new credit card number.

14. (original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising steps of:

configuring, via a computing device, the challenge by an account provider, wherein configuring the challenge includes:

specifying information requested by the challenge; and

specifying a permissible number of response attempts.

15. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of converting the thin wallet account comprises steps of:

creating, via a computing device, a record in a full wallet account database;

providing, via a computing device, notice of a privacy policy; and

consenting, via a computing device, to the privacy policy by the thin wallet account holder.

16. (previously presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein the step of converting the thin wallet account further comprises a step of:

creating, via a computing device, at least a second-level challenge.

17. (previously presented) The method of Claim 16, wherein the step of creating at least a second-level challenge comprises any of the steps of:

setting, via a computing device, a second-level password; and

configuring, via a computing device, a security question by the accountholder.

18. (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising a step of:

providing, via a computing device, a user interface accessible only to holders of full wallet accounts to edit account information and preferences.

20-21. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) A computer program product comprising a tangible medium having computer readable code embodied thereon, the computer code including program code means for performing a method of converting an electronic wallet, the method comprising steps of:

providing a thin wallet account providing a first set of services, the first set of services requiring a single authentication level;

presenting a thin wallet accountholder a one-time challenge/response mechanism; and

if the thin wallet accountholder clears the challenge, converting the thin wallet account to a full wallet account requiring multiple authentication levels and providing a different set of services for each authentication level.

24-49. (cancelled)

50. (previously presented) A system for converting an electronic wallet comprising:

a wallet server;

a wallet database;

a subscriber database, wherein said wallet database is distinct from said subscriber database;

wherein the wallet server is in communication with the wallet and the subscriber databases;

a client in communication with the wallet server, wherein a wallet accountholder requests services from the wallet server; and

a computer program executing on said wallet server, said computer program comprising computer code means for:

providing a thin wallet account providing a first set of services, the first set of services requiring a single authentication level;

presenting a thin wallet accountholder a one-time challenge/response mechanism; and

if the thin wallet accountholder clears the challenge, converting the thin wallet account to a full wallet account requiring multiple authentication levels and providing a different set of services for each authentication level.

51 - 80. (cancelled)